

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park



Freedom Experience


A walking and driving guide
to the civil rights story of Harpers Ferry



In a 1932 visit to Harpers Ferry, N.A.A.C.P. members present a plaque honoring the John Brown Raid.

EXPERIENCE THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY

Walk to these freedom sites

All self-guiding walking tours begin at the Lower Town bus shelter. 
Ride the free shuttle bus from the Visitor Center to the Lower Town.
Times and distances are round-trip from the bus shelter.

1 Black Voices

Interactive displays

Easy 10-minute walk to park exhibit

 Wheelchair accessible with assistance

Listen to stories of Harpers Ferry residents struggling against slavery and segregation.

Follow the sidewalk into town. Turn left on High Street. Continue to the Black Voices exhibit in the stone building on the left side of the street.

2 Storer College Niagara Movement Exhibits

Easy 10-minute walk to park exhibits

 Wheelchair accessible with assistance

Learn about W.E.B. Du Bois' five demands for full civil rights. Explore the history of Storer College as it evolved from a school for former slaves to a beloved alma mater.

Follow the sidewalk into town. Turn left on High Street. Continue to the Storer College and Niagara Movement exhibits in the brick building on the right side of the street.

3 John Brown Museum

and

John Brown's
Fort

Easy 10-minute walk to park buildings, exhibits, and film

 Wheelchair accessible with assistance

Experience a revolt against slavery through films and interactive exhibits in the John Brown Museum. Visit John Brown's Fort where the "war that ended slavery began."

Follow the sidewalk into town. Look for the John Brown Museum on the last block. Enter the museum through the door under the white porch.

John Brown's Fort is across the street from the John Brown Museum.

4 Wager Hotel Site

Easy 15-minute walk to scenic overlook

Stand at the place from which Robert Jackson, a slave at the Wager Hotel, fled to freedom with the aid of contacts in the Underground Railroad.

Follow the sidewalk into town. Turn right at John Brown's Fort. Walk under the railroad bridge. Walk up the slope. Turn left and follow the brick path onto the footbridge. Stop at the bulletin board. The Wager hotel sat on the grass behind the sign.

Short on Time?

For the freedom experience in less than one hour, visit the **John Brown Museum** or the **Black Voices** exhibit.

Lower Town



Walk and Drive to these freedom sites

① **Murphy Farm**

*Civil War to
Civil Rights Trail*

Moderate 60-minute walk along a 2.2-mile round-trip trail

Walk in the footsteps of W.E.B. Du Bois, Mary Church Terrell and other civil rights pioneers as you follow the trail to one of the four former sites of John Brown's Fort.

Pick up a trail map at the Visitor Center.

Begin the trail at the steps next to the Visitor Center restrooms.

② **Storer College Campus**

*at Mather Training
Center*

5-minute drive to easy 10-minute walk through outdoor exhibits

Explore the former campus of Storer College, today a National Park Service training center. The college was one of the first schools for African American students in the South. Outdoor exhibits about the college's history are found along the brick path in front of Mather Training Center.

Drive from the Visitor Center across Highway 340. Follow Washington Street as it curves to the right. Proceed 1.3 miles along Washington Street. Turn right at Storer College Place. Follow the signs to Mather Training Center.

③ **Lockwood House**

*Storer College original
schoolhouse*

Easy 20-minute walk to historic buildings

Continue your exploration of Storer College by visiting the original schoolhouse at Lockwood House.

From Stop 2 continue along Fillmore Street to Stop 3. Look for outdoor exhibits along the way about the college's history in front of Morrell House, Brackett House, and Lockwood House.

Harpers Ferry Vicinity

